

A New Terrestrial Isopod from Oregon, *Caucasonethes rothi* n. sp.

A. VANDEL¹

Mr. Vincent D. Roth, Technician and Curator, Entomology Department, Oregon State College, captured a specimen of a remarkable terrestrial isopod 8 miles east of Gold Beach, Oregon. Upon the suggestion of Dr. Robert J. Menzies, San Diego, California, Roth sent me this specimen for determination.

This specimen belongs to the genus *Caucasonethes* Verhoeff, and to a new species, named *C. rothi* n. sp. in honor of the discoverer.

The genus *Caucasonethes* belongs to the family Trichoniscidae and to a group of genera which includes *Protrichoniscus* Arc., *Caucasonethes* Verh., *Escualdoniscus* Vand., and *Finaloniscus* Brian (and, perhaps, *Brackenridgia* Ulrich, still imperfectly known).

GENERIC CHARACTERS OF CAUCASONETHES VERHOEFF 1932

I consider today that *Amerigoniscus* Vandel 1950 is a synonym of *Caucasonethes* Verhoeff 1932. The generic characters of *Caucasonethes* are the following:

- (1) Pleonites 4 and 5 destitute of glandular pores.
- (2) Peraeopod VII without secondary sexual characters.
- (3) Endopodite of pleopod 1 male unisegmented, likened to a lengthened triangular blade, destitute of terminal bristles.
- (4) Exopodite of pleopod 1 male with posterior end split into two lobes.
- (5) Endopodite of pleopod 2 male biseg-

mented; distal article terminating in an acute and short point.

SPECIES OF THE GENUS CAUCASONETHES

The genus *Caucasonethes* includes three species: *borutzkii* Verhoeff 1932 (caves of Kutais and Zchal-Ziteli, in Transcaucasus; Birstein, 1950: 356); *henroti* (Vandel, 1950) (*Amerigoniscus*) (Gilly's Cave, Pennington Gap, Virginia); and *rothi* n. sp.

The three species are very near one another but are easily distinguishable thus:

1. Endopodite of pleopod 1 male 8 times longer than broad, rounded at tip.
..... *henroti* (Vandel)
Endopodite of pleopod 1 male 10 times longer than broad, acute at tip. 2
2. Exopodite of pleopod 1 male with 2 acute terminal lobes, widely separated from each other. *borutzkii* Verhoeff
Exopodite of pleopod 1 male with 2 terminal approximated lobes, one quadrangular, the other triangular. . *rothi* n. sp.

Caucasonethes rothi n. sp.

TYPE LOCALITY: Eight miles east of Gold Beach, Oregon, on the north bank of the Rogue River, under broken rock and moss in a dense forest, April 29, 1951, V. Roth collector. 1 ♂. The type is deposited in the collection of the author.

SIZE: ♂, 5.5 × 2 mm.

COLORATION: White; without pigment.

EYES: absent.

TEGUMENTAL CHARACTERS: Surface of head with 4 rows of granulations, the last one consisting of strong, projecting tubercles. Tergite I with 3, tergites II–VII with 2 rows of granu-

¹ Professor of Zoology, Faculté des Sciences, University of Toulouse, Toulouse, France. Manuscript received March 20, 1952.

lations, last one strongest. Granulations of last segments much weaker than those of anterior segments. Some weak granulations upon pleonites 1-3. Every granulation covered with a bristle-scale (*Schuppenborste* of German authors) surrounded with numerous accessory scales (Fig. 1a).

Carapace covered with laciniate scales.

Pleonites 4-5 without glandular pores.

SOMATIC CHARACTERS: Antennary tubercles of cephalon, large triangular, projecting forward.

Tip of telson rounded, with 4 bristles (Fig. 1g).

APPENDAGES: *Antennula* (Fig. 1c)—3-segmented, last article with 10 sensory hairs (*aesthetascs*).

Antenna (Fig. 1d)—long; articles 2, 3, and 4 grooved; articles 4 and 5 with 3 rows of scaly tubercles. Flagellum 6-segmented; articles 2, 3, and 4 with sensory hairs (*aesthetascs*).

Right mandible (Fig. 1f)—2 median penicils and 1 molar penicill.

Left mandible—(?), crushed.

Maxillula—outer endite (Fig. 2b) terminated with 11 teeth and 2 stalks, one long and cylindrical, the other short and feathered.

Maxilliped (Fig. 2a)—palp 4-segmented; only first article individualized. Tip of endite terminated with 3 strong bristles and conical, ciliated spindle.

Peraeopods—normal, long and slender.

Pleopod 3—exopodite quadrangular.

Pleopods 4 and 5—exopodite triangular.

Uropod (Fig. 1e)—endopodite a little shorter and very much narrower than exopodite, terminated with a very long stalk; exopodite with cluster of short stalks.

SECONDARY SEXUAL MALE CHARACTERS:

Peraeopod I—meros and carpos fringed with hyaline scales.

Peraeopod VII—destitute of sexual differences.

Genital duct (*Genitalkegel* of German authors) (Fig. 2e)—very long, narrow, conical at tip.

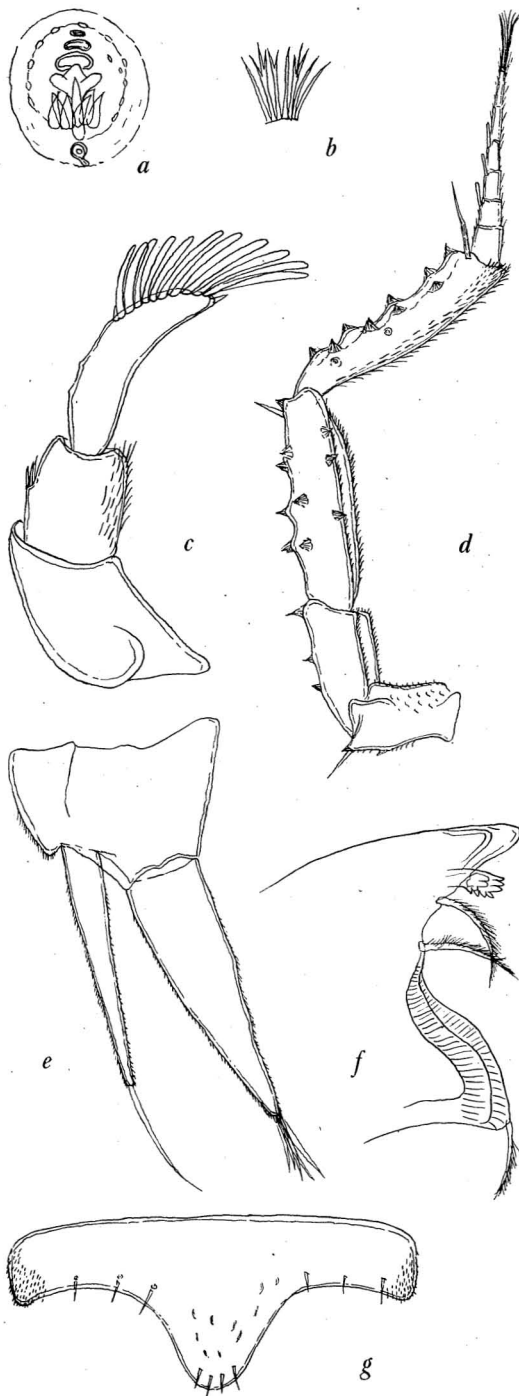


FIG. 1. *Caucasonethes rothi* n. sp.: a, Bristle-scale of tergite I; b, laciniate scale of carapace; c, antennula; d, antenna; e, uropod; f, right mandible; g, telson.

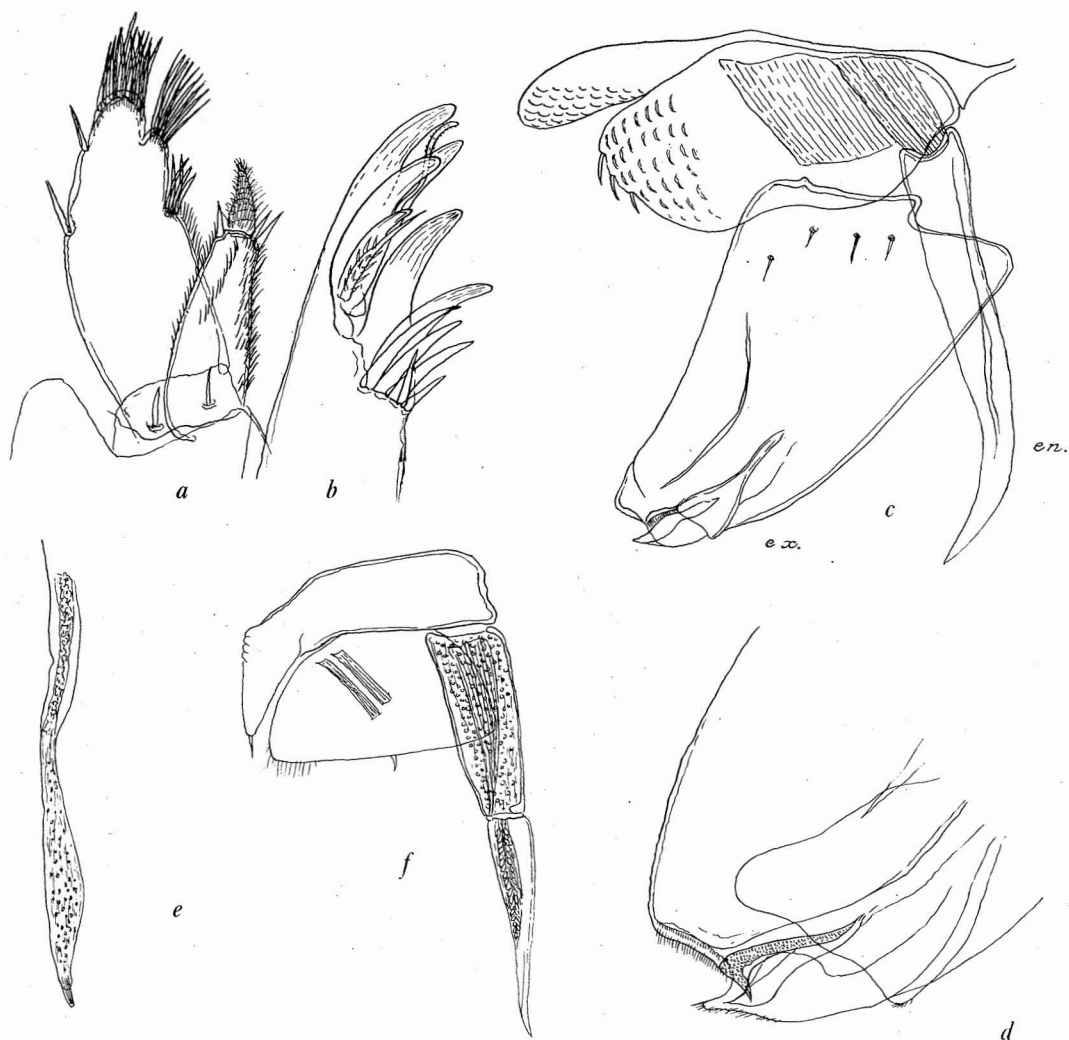


FIG. 2. *Caucasonethes rothi* n. sp.: a, Maxilliped; b, maxillula, end of the outer endite; c, first pleopod of male, en—endopodite, ex—exopodite; d, posterior end of exopodite of first pleopod of male; e, genital duct; f, second pleopod of male.

Pleopod 1 (Figs. 2c, d)—endopodite blade-like, triangular, very narrow and lengthened, destitute of terminal stalk. Exopodite large, quadrangular, terminated with 2 lobes, one quadrangular and ciliated, the other triangular and pointed.

Pleopod 2 (Fig. 2f)—endopodite bisegmented, sharpened at end; exopodite rectangular.

RELATIONSHIP OF CAUCASONETHES ROTHII N. SP. AND OREGONISCUS NEARCTICUS (ARCANGELI)

Arcangeli (1932: 137) gave the name of *Trichoniscus nearcticus* to a single female from MacLeay Park, Portland, Oregon. Hatch (1947: 190) proposed the generic name *Oregoniscus* for this species.

It is difficult to recognize the species of terrestrial isopods based only upon females, but, I think that *Oregoniscus nearcticus* (Arcangeli) and *Caucasonethes rothi* n. sp. are distinct. They differ in many points:

- (1) The size is very different: *O. nearcticus*, 2.73 mm. long; *C. rothi*, 5.5 mm. long.
- (2) The number and disposition of sensory hairs (*aesthetascs*) of antennula is very different in the two species.
- (3) Antennae very long in *C. rothi*, short in *O. nearcticus* "caratteristica è la incavatura che dorsalmente presenta nelle metà distale esterna il 5° articolo dello scapo" (Arcangeli, 1932). This character is missing in *C. rothi*. The flagellum of the antenna is six-segmented in *C. rothi*, four-segmented in *O. nearcticus*.
- (4) The legs of *C. rothi* are long and slender, whereas in *O. nearcticus* "è da notarsi la larghezza e relativamente piccola lunghezza specialmente del meropodite, carpopedite, e propodite, che conferiscono al membro un aspetto massiccio" (loc. cit.).

- (5) In *C. rothi* the endopodite of the uropod is only a little shorter (about one tenth) than the exopodite. In *O. nearcticus*, the endopodite is about one half as long as the exopodite.

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